

Application No. 10/643,689
Attorney Docket No. 21723-0002

D) AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

None

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E) REMARKS

This Response is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2005.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 2, 4-5, 10-13, 15, 19-26 and 28-32 will be pending in the Application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 19, 28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Funke (U.S. Patent No. 4,854,382); rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 19-23, 28-29 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hesselgreaves (U.S. Patent No. 5,193,611); rejected claims 1, 4-5, 15, 19, 28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tegrotenhuis (WIPO Publication No. WO 01/93976); rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 19-21, 28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Armbruster (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,126); rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 19-21, 28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruppel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,112).

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 40. Claims 1 and 40 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 10-13, 24-26 and 30-32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has incorporated into independent claims 10 and 24 the form of claim 1 as filed on March 2, 2005, since claims 10 and 24 were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form in the Office Action dated April 5, 2005 which was filed in response to Applicant's March 2, 2005 response. Claims 10 and 24-26 have been rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claims 2, 4-5, 15, 19-23 and 28-32 have been amended to depend from now independent and allowable claim 10. Moreover, claims 11-13 are allowable. No matter has been added in this response. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 4-5, 15, 19-23 and 28-29 are also allowable, and request the objections be withdrawn.

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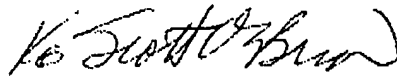
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the outstanding objections, and allowance of claims 2, 4-5, 10-13, 15, 19-26 and 28-32 and issuance of the application. A timely and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,

McNEES, WALLACE & NURICK

By 

K. Scott O'Brian

Reg. No. 42,946

100 Pine Street, P.O. Box 1166

Harrisburg, PA 17108-1166

Tel: (717) 237-5492

Fax: (717) 237-5300

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